

REMARKS

In the Office Action dated August 17, 2006, the Examiner issued a requirement for restriction under 35 U.S.C. §121 categorizing original Claims 1-61 as follows:

Group I: Claims 1-17, drawn to a high throughput method for screening fuel additives, classified in class 436, DIG. 2

Group II: Claims 18-35 and 54-60, drawn to a high throughput method for screening fuel compositions, classified in class 435, DIG. 2.

Group III: Claims 36-47, drawn to a system for screening fuel additives, classified in class 422, subclass 119.

Group IV: Claims 48-53 and 61, drawn to a combinatorial fuel library, classified in class 435, DIG. 22.

Applicant elects, with traverse, the subject matter of the claims of Group I, i.e., Claims 1-17, for examination in this application. Applicant respectfully requests that the Examiner withdraw, or at the very least modify, the requirement for restriction and provide an action on the merits of the nonelected claims.

It is respectfully submitted that the requirement for restriction between at least the claims of Group I and Group II is improper and should be withdrawn.

Restriction is proper only if the claims are either independent or patentably distinct and the search and examination of the entire application would impose a serious burden on the examiner (MPEP § 803). Applicant respectfully traverses the restriction requirement because the Examiner has not provided sufficient reasons to show that such a burden exists. Here, all of applicant's claims are directed either to a method for screening fuel additives under program control (Claims 1-17); or to a method for screening fuel compositions

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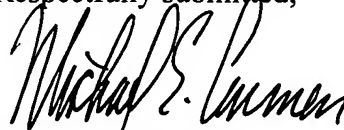
Response to Restriction Requirement dated September 13, 2006

containing at least one fuel additive under program control (Claims 18-35 and 54-60) and as the Examiner has noted, each of Groups I and II are classified within Class 435, DIG. 2. Applicant therefore submits that the Examiner, in searching for the subject matter of the claims in Class 435, would necessarily find art related to the method for screening fuel additives under program control of the claims of Group I; as well as the methods for screening fuel compositions containing at least one fuel additive of the claims of Group II.

Accordingly, applicant respectfully request that the Examiner withdraw, or at the very least modify, the requirement for restriction and provide an action on the merits of nonelected Claims 18-35 and 54-60.

For the foregoing reasons, applicant respectfully submits that all of the claims of the application as presented herein, including the nonelected claims, are in condition for examination on the merits. Early favorable action is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Michael E. Carmen".

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